

(ii) Upon receipt of the report of the board of investigation, the officer exercising general court-martial authority shall:

(A) Return the report to the board for further investigation, if the investigation is determined to be incomplete; or

(B) Forward the report of the board of investigation to the Judge Advocate General together with comments and recommendations concerning suspension of the counsel involved.

(3) *Action by the Judge Advocate General.* (i) Upon receipt of a report of an allegation of misconduct or disability of a counsel, the Judge Advocate General:

(A) May take the action authorized by subsections (c)(1)(i), (ii), or (iii);

(B) May appoint a board of officers for investigation and hearing in accordance with subsections (c)(2)(i)(B) or

(C) May request the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the command of the respondent (if judge advocate counsel) or over the proceedings (if civilian counsel) to take the matter for investigation and hearing in accordance with subsection (c)(2)(i)(B).

(ii) Upon receipt of the report of the investigating board, the Judge Advocate General:

(A) May determine whether the respondent is to be suspended or decertified and, if so, whether for a stated term or indefinitely;

(B) May determine that the findings of the board do not warrant further action; or

(C) May return the report to the sending officer with appropriate instructions for further inquiry or action. The Judge Advocate General may, sua sponte, or upon petition of the respondent, modify or revoke any prior order of suspension or dismissal of a report. Further, if the Judge Advocate General suspends counsel, the Judge Advocates General of the other armed forces will be notified.

(d) *Grounds justifying suspension of counsel or suspension or decertification of a Judge Advocate.* (1) Suspension or decertification is to be employed only after it has been established that a counsel has been unable to discharge properly all the duties of his or her of-

fice by reason of mental or physical disability or has been engaged in professional or personal misconduct of such a serious nature as to demonstrate that he or she is lacking in integrity or is failing to meet the ethical standards of the profession or is otherwise unworthy or unqualified to perform the duties of a counsel. Action to suspend or decertify should not be initiated because of personal prejudice or hostility toward counsel, nor should such action be initiated because counsel has initiated an aggressive, zealous or novel defense, or the apparent misconduct stems from inexperience or lack of instruction.

(2) Specific grounds for suspension or decertification include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Demonstrated incompetence while acting as counsel before, during or after a court-martial.

(ii) Preventing or obstructing justice, including the deliberate use of frivolous or unwarranted dilatory tactics.

(iii) Fabricating papers or other evidence.

(iv) Tampering with a witness.

(v) Abusive conduct toward the court-martial, the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Military Review, the military judge, or opposing counsel.

(vi) Flagrant or repeated violations of any specific rules of conduct prescribed for counsel in the Manual for Courts-Martial.

(vii) Conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude or conviction for violation of article 48, UCMJ.

(viii) Disbarment by a State Bar, Federal Court, or the United States Court of Military Appeals.

(ix) Suspension as counsel by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy, Army, or Air Force or the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

(x) Flagrant or repeated violations of the *Uniform Rules of Practice Before Navy-Marine Corps Courts-Martial* as outlined in Appendix A-1-p(1) of the Manual of the Judge Advocate General.

(xi) Flagrant or repeated violations of the provisions of section 0134 of this Manual of the Judge Advocate General dealing with the *Release of Information Pertaining to Accused Persons; Spectators at Judicial Sessions*.